



PROBLEMS OF VILLAGES IN DROUGHT PRONE AREA OF SANGLI DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICAL STUDY

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ABSTRACT:

This research paper mainly aims to discuss the problems of the villages in drought prone area of Sangli district. The researcher has selected 82 villages of 630. It is 13 per cent of the total villages. The Stratified random sampling technique is used for the number of villages where as the purposive sampling is used for the selection of villages. The detail and formal discussions with the village heads have been carried out through 16 points detailed schedule, which help us to find out the problems of villages in drought prone area of the study region. This study concludes that various problems are observed in the study area. All these problems are barriers to the sustainable development of study region.

Key words: Drought-Prone, problems, socio-economic, development.

INTRODUCTION:

According to 2011 census, there are 6,49,481 villages in India. Majority of the Indian population (65.07 % Census, 2011) living in rural area. In general rural area is a geographic area that is located outside towns and cities with the less number of facilities like services and amenities. In rural area, large numbers of populations are dependent on agriculture. In last 20 years in India there is rapid growth and development in cities and urban but not in rural areas. Less income opportunity is the main cause of rural – urban migration. Rural areas are equally important for the sustainable development of the any region. There are several barriers to the development of rural area. The decision makers, policy makers and planners are big challenges for the development of rural area. So it is necessary to study the rural problems.

STUDY REGION:

Drought Prone Area of Sangli District is selected as a study region for present investigation. Sangli district is one of the southern districts of Maharashtra State. It is part of Deccan Plateau. It lies between $16^{\circ} 45'$ north and $17^{\circ} 33'$ north latitude and $74^{\circ} 20'$ east to $75^{\circ} 41'$ east longitude (Census of India, 2001). It is surrounded by Satara and Solapur district to the north, Karnataka State to the east and south, Kolhapur district to the south-west and Shirala tehsil of Sangli district in the west (Fig.1.1). The area of the study region is about 8,114.53 sq. km. The total population of the drought prone area is about 26,59,232 as per the 2011 census. In the study region there are 630 villages. The density of population is 329 persons per sq. km.

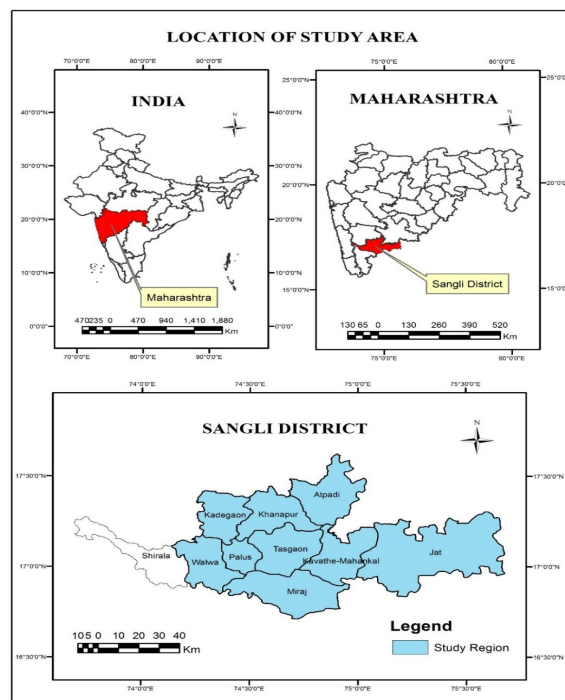


Fig. 1.1

OBJECTIVE:

1. To investigate the problems of villages in the study region.

DATA SOURCE & METHODOLOGY:

The present study is mainly based on primary & secondary data. The secondary data collected from the socio-economic abstract of Sangli district. The primary data has been collected from intensive field work. The researcher has selected 82 villages of 630. It is 13 per cent of the total villages. The Stratified

random sampling technique is used for the number of villages of each tehsil where as the purposive sampling is used for the selection of villages. The detail and formal discussions with the village heads have been carried out through 16 points detailed schedule, which help us to find out the problems of villages in drought prone area of the study region. The number of problems of villages of each tehsil is converted into percentage.

ANALYSIS:

In the study region, the villages are facing various problems. Problems of these villages are classified into two categories like geographical and socio-economic.

GEOGRAPHICAL PROBLEMS:

1. Narrow Road:

It is observed during the study of the researcher that in Jat tehsil 28.57 per cent of villages have the internal roads which are narrow in condition. It is followed by in Khanapur tehsil with 14.29 per cent of villages have narrow internal roads with Tasgaon tehsil shows 12.24 per cent of villages have narrow roads. Compared to the other tehsils the Walwa and Kadegaon tehsils almost 6.12 per cent of villages have narrow roads. The village-like Kasabe-Digranj, Malgaon and Ankalkhop in Miraj tehsil are facing problem of a narrow road in the interior part of the villages which cause traffic conjunction and that also becomes an object of barrier in transport network.

2. Kachha Road:

In the study region it is observed that extended village area or newly formed settlement around the original village, all roads are kachha roads. In Jat tehsil, 20.83 per cent of villages roads are not good. It is followed by Kavathe-Mahankal, Khanapur, Atpadi and Tasgaon by 20.83, 13.89, 12.50 and 11.11 per cent respectively due to the socio-economically backward condition of these tehsils. The condition of the roads in Walwa, Palus and Miraj tehsils is good if compared to other tehsils, because these three tehsils are socio-economically highly developed.

3. Lack of Gaothan Place:

It is observed that in most of the villages the rate of increase in population is high that is why gaothan lands are not available to absorb residents of the village. The problem of *gaothan* is highly in Walwa tehsil, which is 33.33 per cent of villages suffer the problem like lack of gaothan place whereas Palus tehsil shows 16.67 per cent of villages because these two tehsils are agriculturally well developed and well irrigated by Krishna and Warana rivers. There are 11.11 per cent villages from Miraj, Khanapur and Tasgaon have no extended place for expansion of *gaothan*. Particularly in Ankalkhop village of Palus tehsil the problem of extended place for expansion of *gaothan* is faced by villagers.

4. Flood:

Flood is a situation when there is a flow of water in a river more than its capacity and the water overflows the levees and spreads in nearby areas (Gujar, 2008). Bharatwadi village from Walwa tehsil is situated at the north side bank of the Warana river. It is a flood-affected village especially in the monsoon the peasants have to face a lot of problems. Many times due to the flood situation students from the region are helpless to attend their school. There are some villages located at the bank of the river Krishna and Warana in Walwa, Palus and Miraj tehsils which have the flood problem in some or high extent.

5. Sanitation Problem:

It is observed that 38.46 per cent of villages from Walwa tehsil have no good sewage system whereas Palus and Kavathe-Mahankal 15.38 per cent of villages have not a proper sewage system. The villages from Khanapur and Miraj tehsils 7.69 per cent of villages face this problem. In remaining tehsils like Atpadi, Tasgaon and Kadegaon, the situation of the sewage system is fairly good. It is observed that due to the scarcity of water 35 per cent of settlements are not using the public latrines.

6. Scarcity of Drinking Water:

The shortage of drinking is a big problem in many villages in the study region. It is observed that water scarcity or limited availability, particularly during the summer months - March to May. The main problem with water is a shortage of clean water and waterborne diseases. The study region has experienced a drastic decline in groundwater table in eastern part of study region due to geographical and geological condition; rainfall fluctuations and low recharge rate, etc. It is observed that 26.79 per cent of villages in Jat tehsil are facing this problem. It is followed by Kavathe-Mahankal with 16.17 per cent of villages facing the same problem. The villages from Khanapur, Atpadi and Tasgaon are 14.29 per cent. The situation of drinking water in Palus tehsil is in good condition. The remaining Miraj, Kadegaon and Walwa tehsils have a

shortage of drinking water in some or high extent. The scarcity of drinking water in the eastern part is serious than the western part.

7. Solid Waste Management:

In the sample villages of the study region such as Malgaon, Kavathe-Mahankal, Kasabe-Digraj, Umadi and Arewadi villages face major environmental challenges associated with waste generation and inadequate waste collection, transport, treatment and disposal. Waste collection is the responsibility of Grampanchayat or Municipal Corporation. Waste dumps have adverse impacts on the environment and public health. On the market day, all waste material is dumped on the open place of the outside of the settlement. Open dumps release methane from decomposition of biodegradable waste and anaerobic condition.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PROBLEMS:

The villages in the drought prone area of Sangli district are facing different types of socio-economic problems are listed and elaborated as under.

1. Lack of Post Office Facility:

Throughout the study, it has been observed that 42.68 per cent of villages have no facilities of the post office. On an average 50 per cent of villages in Palus and Tasgaon tehsils respectively are apart from post office facility. The other tehsil viz. Khanapur, Miraj and Kavathe-Mahankal are facing the same problem. About 44.44 per cent of villages from these tehsils have lack of such facility. while the 37.50 per cent villages from Atpadi and Kadegaon tehsils are also not having this necessary facility. Similarly, 30 per cent of villages from Walwa tehsil is away from post office facility.

2. Non-Computerized Village Panchayat:

In the observation, it is found that in all 10.98 per cent of villages have not computerized facilities in the village panchayats. Considering in particular, 30 per cent of villages from Walwa tehsil are inadequate in the computerized system, whereas 16.67 per cent of villages from Palus tehsil have not gone through computerization at panchayat. About 12.50 per cent of villages from Atpadi, Tasgaon and Jat tehsil are missing the computerized facilities in their village panchayat, while 11.11 per cent of villages in Khanapur tehsil have the same problem. It has been observed that villages from Miraj, Kavathe-Mahankal and Kadegaon tehsils are having 100 per cent computerized system.

3. Unavailability of S.T. Bus Facility:

The present study has keenly observed that totally 8.54 per cent villages in drought prone area of Sangli district have unavailability of S.T. bus facilities from many years. Objectively it is seen that 16.67 per cent of villages from Palus

tehsil has lack of S.T. bus facility. Similarly, 13.33 per cent of villages from Jat tehsil have the same problem, whereas 12.50 per cent of villages from Tasgaon tehsil is away from this essential facility. The S.T. bus facility hasn't reached even today also in almost 11.11 per cent of villages from Miraj and Kavathe-Mahankal and 10 per cent villages from Walwa tehsil. There are three tehsils namely Khanapur, Atpadi and Kadegaon have availability 100 per cent S.T. bus facility in each and every village.

4. Lack of Toilet Facility:

It is observed that there are so many villages in the particular study region have not the facility of toilet. The highest range of this problem is found in Kavathe-Mahankal tehsil due to the lack of water. About 88.89 per cent of villages are observed where such a toilet facility is totally absent. The Walwa tehsil shows that 60 per cent of villages are away from this significant facility. The problem is raised due to these villagers have no place to build toilet. Nearly 44.44 per cent villages from Tasgaon, 37.50 per cent from Jat, 22.22 per cent from Miraj and 11.11 per cent of villages from Khanapur tehsils are not having the toilet facility. In all 36.59 per cent of villages in the study region are found that toilets are not used because of one or other reasons. It is observed that due to the scarcity of water in 35 per cent of villages, the villagers are unable to use the public and own toilet and latrines.

5. Problem of Gutter Facility:

It is observed that 96.34 per cent of villages from the study region have an open gutter facility whereas the figure of underground gutter in percentage is only 3.66. It is observed that 100 per cent open gutters are there in Khanapur, Atpadi, Miraj, Kavathe-Mahankal, Jat and Kadegaon tehsils in the study region. Walwa tehsil comes to the next and noted only 10 per cent underground gutters are available while 90 per cent villages have open gutters in the villages of Walwa tehsil whereas 83.33 per cent of villages in Palus and 87.50 per cent villages in Tasgaon tehsil have the same situation.

6. Lack of Agro Loan Facility:

In the observation, it is remarked that 14.63 per cent of villages have a lack of loan facility for the development of agriculture due to the absence of loan providing institutions. There are 33.33 per cent of villages from Palus, 25 per cent from Tasgaon, 22.22 from Khanapur, 20 per cent from Walwa and 12.50 per cent from Jat tehsil are in need of loan providing facilities.

7. Lack of Library Facility:

Rural library place a vital role for the spread of knowledge and information to the rural community (Lamani et al. 2014). The availability of

library facility in the study region it is found that 60.98 per cent of villages lack of a library, because there are a great number of villages in a particular region where libraries have not yet been existed.

There are 88.89 per cent villages from Khanapur, 81.25 per cent Jat, 66.67 per cent Miraj and Kavathe-Mahankal, 62.50 from Tasgaon, 57.14 from Kadegaon, 50 per cent from Palus and 40 per cent from Walwa are in lack of library and need to develop. Out of which Khanapur and Jat tehsils have the highest range of backwardness in social-economical and educational development. It is observed that Atpadi is a leading tehsil which is having a large number of library facility. The reason behind it is the birthplace of great Marathi author G. D. Madgulkar. Because of the influence of literature, the people from Atpadi have given more attention to the development of libraries.

8. Lack of Gym Facility:

Observing keenly the problems it is found that there are 62.50 per cent from Atpadi 57.14 per cent from Kadegaon, 50 per cent Jat and Tasgaon, 33.33 from Khanapur, 30 per cent from Walwa, 22.22 from Kavathe-Mahankal, 11.11 per cent villages from Miraj tehsil have not been facilitated with Gymnasium and sports. There is a sports club available in all villages of the study region but 80 per cent of them are unregistered.

9. Lack of Auditorium Facility:

It is observed that different social communities have their separate auditorium halls for getting together. Even political funds are also provided to build up such kind of multipurpose halls. Considering the issue there are 41.46 per cent of the villages are not having auditorium facility. About 75 per cent of villages from Jat tehsil are away totally from this facility. Because Jat tehsil is socio-economically backward. It is followed by to Jat Palus and Tasgaon that shows 50 per cent of villages having no such facility. There are 44.44 per cent of villages from Kavathe-Mahankal, 42.86 per cent from Kadegon, 33.33 per cent from Atpadi and 10 per cent of villages from Walwa tehsil have not been provided with public auditorium facility.

10. Lack of S.T. Pick up Shade Facility:

In some villages S.T. bus facility is available but there is no proper pickup shade for the public. The people have to wait for the bus on the roads, at an open place. It is observed that totally 36.59 per cent of villages have to face this problem. Basically, it is a common and usual amenity that should be given to the citizens. Though it is the fundamental right to the public, it is observed that there are 50 per cent villages from Jat as well as Palus, 44.44 per cent from Miraj, 40 per cent from Walwa and Kavathe-Mahankal, 37.50 from Atpadi, 25 per cent from Tasgaon, 14.29 per cent from Kadegaon and 12.50 per cent villages

from Khanapur tehsil are found that they have a lack of such facility like S.T. pick up shade.

11. Lack of Market Facility:

The village wise distribution of market centers in the study region mainly depends upon the socio-economic condition of the settlement. Walwa tehsil has the highest number of rural weekly markets whereas Khanapur tehsil has the lowest number of markets. This type of difference mainly observed because of the level of accessibility, socio-economic activities and location advantage of market centers. There are nearly 54.88 per cent of villages from the study region have no market facility. The 40 per cent of villages of Walwa tehsil have lack of such facility whereas the villages of Palus tehsil have noted 50 per cent. About 77.78 per cent of villages from Khanapur tehsil, while 62.50 per cent of villages in Atpadi, 50 per cent of villages at Tasgaon, 44.44 per cent from Miraj have lack of market centers. About 55.56 per cent of villages of Kavathe-Mahankal and 62.50 per cent villages of Jat, 42.86 per cent of villages of Kadegaon tehsil have been needed to strengthen the market facilities.

12. Lack of Bank Facility:

About 28.05 per cent of villages have national banks whereas 41.46 per cent of villages have co-operative societies to provide financial assistance to the villagers. In Walwa tehsil 30 per cent of villages have national banks while 50 per cent of villages have facilitated by co-operative societies. The figure about the villages in Palus is 33.33 per cent. About Khanapur it is 33.33 per cent of villages, 44.44 per cent in Atpadi whereas in Tasgaon shows only 25 per cent. In Miraj tehsil, it is 44.44 per cent. About Kavathe-Mahankal the percentage is 22.27 and 44.44 per cent. Jat has 12.50 and 18.75 per cent while the percentage of villages in Kadegaon tehsil is 28.57 and 57.14 per cent respectively.

13. Lack of Electrification Facility:

Electricity is the basic need of the human being. But in the study region, the condition of the villages is very horrible. Even in this modern period there are some villages that have not yet received regular electric supply so they have to face darkness daily. The researcher has found that in Walwa tehsil about 20 per cent of villages are observed 100 per cent unavailability of electric supply. The electrification is the biggest problem of Atpadi tehsil and observed 87.50 villages followed by Miraj with 77.78 per cent of villages. The condition of Jat shows 73.33 per cent of villages whereas 50 per cent of villages in Tasgaon has suffering from the same problem. The tehsil Kavathe-Mahankal shows 33.33 per cent of villages while Kadegaon shows 37.50 per cent and Khanapur 22.22 per cent of villages are leading the problem of electrification.

14. Lack of Wood Vakhra Facility:

The villages from the study region rural people are largely neglected. They are hard to get even the basic facilities and need. Some times some people die in the night or at an odd time, at that moment it becomes impossible to do the funeral and to burn the dead bodies due to the lack of wood *vakhra* in the villages of the study region. It is observed that there is 51.22 per cent of villages have no facility of wood *vakhra*. About 66.67 per cent of villages of Miraj tehsil, 60 per cent of villages of Walwa have the lack of wood *vakhra* facility. The 55.56 per cent of villages in Khanapur whereas 50 per cent of villages Palus and Atpadi whereas 44.44 per cent of villages and 25 per cent of villages of Kadegaon tehsil needs to develop wood *vakhra* as traditional fuel supply for at least funeral function.

15 Problems Related to Ration Shops:

Fare Price Shops (FPS) have played an important role in the retail distribution of essential goods particularly to the economically vulnerable section of society. During 2017, the average number of cardholders per FPS is recorded 562. It is observed that Miraj, Palus, Tasgaon and Walwa these four tehsils the average number of cardholders per FPS is greater than of an average number of cardholders per FPS of the study region. Here, these four tehsils are under high population pressure. Hence there is a need to establish new ration shops. The ration shop facility provided to the people who are living in small villages i.e. below 1000 population of some settlement remains in nearest big villages. However such type of problem faced by the small villages. There are many problems, such as, lack of timely supply, working hours of FPSs, irregularities regarding weights/measures, duplicate or unauthentic ration cards, etc. and many more, which are disturbing the FPS operation.

16. Problems related to Primary Health Centers:

The primary health centers and adequate facilities of the hospital are one of the fundamental needs of people. Thinking about this the present research study highlights the problems related to the primary health centers in the drought prone area of Sangli district. There are 60 per cent of PHC centers have been studied by the researcher. In the study, various problems regarding the primary health centers are found. It is observed that most of the people are unaware and not much serious about these major problems. According to the PHC centers, there are 96.87 per cent people are inactive and not serious about their health. About 15.62 per cent of the PHC's have found with a lack of drug shortage. About 25 per cent of employees in PHC's have computer illiteracy whereas about 18.75 per cent of PHC's have a lack of geomedical waste management. It is also observed that in some emergency cases immunization is

needed but in the particular study region, 6.25 per cent lack of immunization is found.

17. Problems Related to Police Station:

It is observed that generally, almost 80 per cent of police stations do not have a residential facility for them. The police staffs feel the stress of the work. Though the system has become totally online and computerized, still there are a remarkable number of senior police who are not familiar with computer literacy. In Bhilawadi of Palus tehsil, the police staff members have to perform their duty in the rent basis building as they don't have their own building for the police station. The high range of stress and pressure is found in the tehsils viz. Tasgaon, Kadegaon, Khanapur, Jat and Palus because the population and police ratio is higher. There are 30 per cent of the vacant posts of police staff leading the burden and pressure of work on existing staff.

18. Other Problems:

It is observed that the primary schools are facing some problems in drought prone area of Sangli district. The building of primary school particularly in Dhondewadi in Tasgaon tehsil is in an old and dangerous situation. There is no ground for students. In this village, the building of Grampanchayat is very small and inconvenient. In the study region, 30 per cent of primary schools are no fencing or gate and lack of proper facilities such as toilet and drinking water. It is observed that 60 per cent cemeteries are open and they have no fencing, water and light facility even.

CONCLUSION:

Infrastructure, geographical and socio-economic problems are observed in the study region. These problems are the barriers to the development of rural area. If the villages are provided with basic and required facilities, it can help a lot to convert them into the smart villages. The backwardness of the villages is not only due to the physical problems but also due to the ignorance and unawareness. If the proper schemes and campaigns are run enthusiastically by the public and Govt., it can definitely help to get escape from the above mentioned problems.

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